

MEETING MINUTES

Officials Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 5, 2014

1:00 p.m.

Mayor's Conference Room

Members Present: Mayor Beutler; Doug Emery, Trent Fellers, City Council; Brent Smoyer, County Board; Khalil Jaber, Nebraska Department of Roads.

Others Present: Amy Starr, Nebraska Department of Roads; Marvin Krout, David Cary, Mike Brienzo, Michele Abendroth, Planning.

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

1. Review and action on the draft minutes of the February 20, 2014 Officials Committee meeting.

The minutes of the February 20, 2014 Officials Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Election of committee officers. According to the Bylaws, Committee officers consist of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman that are elected annually from the members of the committee.

Brienzo explained that according to the Bylaws, a Chair and Vice Chair must be elected annually.

Emery moved to nominate Fellers as Chair of the Officials Committee, seconded by Smoyer. The motion carried unanimously.

Emery moved to nominate Hudkins as Vice Chair of the Officials Committee, seconded by Smoyer. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Review and action Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) request to amend the Lincoln South Beltway Project within the Lincoln MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Brienzo explained that the Nebraska Department of Roads has requested an amendment to the Long Range Transportation Plan to advance the South Beltway project as a priority project from unfunded to funded. It is listed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be adopted as a project. This would allow this project to be moved forward in the planning process. The amendment was reviewed by the Technical Committee and forwarded to the Officials Committee. The Planning Commission has approved the amendment. We received one public comment, which was from the Chamber of Commerce, who was supportive of the project.

Beutler asked about the City's payment in a lump sum. Jaber responded that if they let the project in its entirety, then they will bill the City for the lump sum. If they let the project in packages, then they will bill the City in packages. Cary noted that this adds a funding mechanism to show financial constraint, and this reflects the reality that we would come up with the money at the time of the project. Brienzo commented that everyone in the study feels that 2020 is a good timeline. Jaber stated that there will need to be further discussion with the City and State on how we want to handle the funds.

Emery moved to approve to amend the Lincoln South Beltway project within the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan, seconded by Smoyer. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Review and action on the Lincoln MPO Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) program of projects developed through the *Project Prioritization and Selection Process* and recommended programming.

Brienzo stated that the State supports the MPO's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) process. We get approximately \$394,000 per year, and allocation is around \$367,000. The program is fiscally constrained. There was a call for applications to use the funds, and they received one application, which is for the **Beal Slough Trail** project from the Parks and Recreation Department. The committee reviewed the application and recommended approval. This is a complex project, and it is tied into three other projects, which are also in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The total cost of the project is \$1.1 million with the majority of the funds from TAP. The project will likely begin in 2017 or 2018. There are a couple issues, which they will be working out with the State. They want to make sure the environmental issues and the right-of-way issues are addressed.

Beutler asked about the process for changing this if we choose. Brienzo stated that the MPO has discretion on which projects it programs from the Trails Plan to meet its needs. It is just a matter of process to revise the TIP and provide a brief explanation as to the change.

Beutler then asked if the criteria require the project to be more of an alternative transportation route rather than for recreation. Brienzo stated that there is criteria, but it could be any improvement. Jaber commented that the idea is that you are presenting a corridor that is taking you on South 56th Street to Yankee Hill Road. Cary added that this source of funding is the primary source for the trail program historically. This segment of trail is identified as a priority segment in the LRTP. This project is the next one that came online.

Emery moved approval of the Transportation Alternatives Program, seconded by Smoyer. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Review and action on a recommendation regarding 2014 Self-Certification review that the Transportation Planning Process for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area complies with applicable federal laws and regulations.

Brienzo stated that each year when the MPO brings forward a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), it is also required to go through a self-certification process that the Transportation Planning Process for the Lincoln Metropolitan Area complies with applicable federal laws and regulations. He noted that the metropolitan planning area was certified by FHWA and FTA as a result of the last TMA Certification Review. The MPO has updated several key documents including the Public Participation Plan, the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Unified Planning Program, and the Transportation Improvement Program.

The recommendation is approval of the findings and that the metropolitan planning area is carrying out the federal regulations and procedures.

Smoyer moved to approve the 2014 Self-Certification review, seconded by Emery. The motion carried unanimously.

Jaber complimented the staff on their efforts in this process.

6. Review and action on the *proposed FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program*.

Brienzo stated that the draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is coordinated with several agencies including the State, City, County, the Lincoln Airport Authority and the Federal Transit Administration.

Brienzo noted that there is one amendment from StarTran on the purchase of full size buses. It was approved by the Board of Regents last week, and StarTran would like to see this move forward as quickly as possible. The total number of busses does not change.

Davis explained that four busses are for two new UNL routes, four are for the Innovation Campus expansion and the remaining nine are replacement busses.

Beutler questioned the use of the term 'full size bus' and if it is confining in terms of limiting the length of the bus. Davis said that it would not limit the length of the bus.

Jaber moved to approve the 2015-18 Transportation Improvement Program, seconded by Emery. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Review and action on the MPO's *proposed FY 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program*.

Brienzo stated that each year the MPO receives an allocation of federal planning funds to support the transportation related planning activities within the Lincoln Metropolitan area. In order to use these funds, we are required to develop a detailed program of projects, identify the source of funding of each project, the expected outcome of the project and a timeline for completion. The estimated federal fund allocation identified for FY 2014-15 is approximately \$389,453. The main project this year will be developing a transportation model revalidation for the upcoming LRTP update. The plan needs to be updated in 2016 to provide a fresh list of projects for programming.

The federal highway planner is encouraging the MPO to have three planning emphasis areas: the implementation of MAP-21, promotion of regional cooperation, and access to essential services.

Emery moved approval of the 2014-2015 Unified Planning Work Program, seconded by Jaber. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Other topics for discussion

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

*** Please note that these minutes will not be formally approved until the next meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Officials Committee. ***

ma/mdb

Q:\MPO\Officials Committee\Minutes\2013-2014\140220.docx